

80229

June 26, 1980

BISHOPS URGED TO RESTORE AUTHENTIC CREED

NEW ORLEANS -- Bishops of the Episcopal Church were urged on May 30 to restore the "authentic text" of the Nicene Creed to the Book of Common Prayer, thus removing a "cause of scandal and grave offense" to the Eastern Orthodox and "source of embarrassment" to some Anglicans.

The 28-member executive council of the Associated Parishes, meeting here May 26-30, asked the Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. John M. Allin, and the other bishops of the Church to open discussion immediately on dropping the phrase "and the Son" from the creed's third paragraph. Copies of the unanimous resolution also were sent to the Church's Standing Liturgical Commission and to the Primate of the Anglican Church in Canada.

The action came at the end of the council's five-day annual meeting that also discussed the effect on the church's theology and practice of the restoration of the adult catechumenate in the Book of Occasional Services. Associated Parishes represents Episcopalians, Canadian Anglicans and other Christians working to invigorate Christian life through liturgical reform.

The filioque clause was removed from the creed in the Episcopal Church's trial Eucharistic rites but was re-inserted in the new Prayer Book by the 1979 General Convention.

"The Nicene Creed is the most important summary of the historic faith of the Holy Catholic Church," the resolution said. "Its wording is, therefore, a matter for serious attention."

"For generations Anglican scholars have been aware that the words in the third paragraph, 'and the Son,' are no part of the ancient and authentic text. This intrusion has been and is a cause of scandal and grave offense to all Christians of the Eastern Churches, and a source of embarrassment to some in our own Church."

-more-

Copyright © 1985 by The Episcopal Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. 100 copies. \$1.00 per copy.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

EPISCOPAL CHURCH TO REAFFIRM
AFFIRMATION

NEW YORK — The Episcopal Church today reaffirmed its commitment to the "affirmation" of the historic Church in the face of contemporary challenges. The church's "affirmation" is a statement of its commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world. The church's "affirmation" is a statement of its commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world.

The 18-member executive council of the Episcopal Church, meeting today in New York, reaffirmed the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world. The council's decision was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world. The council's decision was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world.

The action came at the end of the council's two-day session, which was held in New York. The council's decision was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world. The council's decision was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world. The council's decision was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world.

The council's decision was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world. The council's decision was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world. The council's decision was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world.

The council's decision was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world. The council's decision was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world. The council's decision was a reaffirmation of the church's commitment to the historic Church and its mission in the world.

Anglican bishops agreed at the 1978 Lambeth Conference to open discussions on the clause in their respective churches, the resolution said. "The Council of the Associated Parishes respectfully urges the Presiding Bishop and the other Bishops of the Episcopal Church to set in motion such discussion without further delay," it said.

The Anglican Church in Canada has re-opened the issue by omitting the clause in its new trial Third Canadian Eucharist, the resolution said, and the Archbishop of Canterbury's use of the "authentic text" at his enthronement last spring met with "favorable ecumenical response."

The meeting also discussed the effects on the Church's theology and practice of the 1979 Prayer Book's assumption of adult baptism as a norm. A liturgy for the catechumenate is in the Book of Occasional Services, "Preparation of Adults for Holy Baptism."

Both the Episcopal and the newly-restored Roman Catholic catechumenate teach Christianity to candidates as well as the baptized by having catechumens live the liturgy for a substantial time with a parish, rather than through courses of classes, said the Rev. Michael Merriman of Granbury, Tex., who presented a paper on the catechumenate.

The catechumenate can channel the trauma that a non-believer's conversion, or charismatic enthusiasm, or a believer's rediscovery of his faith, causes in a person as well as in congregations, Merriman said. "We don't have a structure in our parish churches now to deal with it," he said.

"The catechumenate models for these people and for the church a way of making sense of their experience," said the Rev. Robert Brooks of Baytown, Tex., who has taught catechumens for several years.

Though the catechumenate may be the church's norm, or full liturgical expression of what conversion means, it may never become frequent, just as the norm of bishops, priests, deacons and people for celebrating the Eucharist commonly is truncated to priest and people, said the Rev. Patrick Regan, O.S.B., of St. Joseph's Abbey, Covington, La., a guest speaker.

The executive council also approved immediate publication of two more brochures to help parishes use Prayer Book rites: "Christian Burial" and "Celebrating Redemption: the Liturgies of Lent and the Great Fifty Days." These and all Associated Parishes' brochures, as well as membership information, are available from Arthur Jenkins, Coordinator, Associated Parishes, 3606 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, Va. 22305.

#####

DP, DX

NOTE: For further information contact the Rev. Henry H. Breul, (202)332-0607 or Mr. Michael Moriarty (202) 797-5890

